

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 8, 2005

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Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission to Sponsor "ADR: A Quicker Resolution of Civil Rights Disputes" on

Tuesday, September 13, 2005, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the <u>Hawai'i Convention Center</u>

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) will sponsor the above event, which is open to the public free of charge (\$5 flat fee for parking). The event will be held in conjunction with HCRC's mediation provider on Oahu, the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP). The training will focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as an alternative means of resolving civil rights disputes, which in fiscal year 2004 totaled more than 625 new HCRC complaints. In addition to background information regarding processing of HCRC cases presented by HCRC staff, the MCP mediators will present a demonstration mediation of an employment discrimination case.

According to Executive Director William Hoshijo, "This presentation is intended to demonstrate a more efficient and expeditious way of resolving disputes that come before the commission. Our mediation program, which is 6 years old and growing, is now a major alternative to investigation and litigation. We want to demonstrate how it can be utilized by parties to civil rights disputes. We strongly encourage all of the public -- including professionals, business, government, non-profits, and labor -- who find themselves involved in cases at the HCRC, to participate in this presentation."

A flyer is attached with a registration form and details. The form must be completed for each attendee and is also available on the HCRC website at **www.hawaii.gov/labor/hcrc.** Please note that seating is limited, so the public is asked to *make a reservation for each attendee* on the attached flyer/registration form, which may be mailed, faxed, or emailed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Allen or staff at (808) 586-8636.